

**DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

**At a Meeting of the Adults, Well Being and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held at the County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 27 August 2009** at **10.00 a.m.**

**COUNCILLOR R BURNIP** in the Chair.

**Members of the Committee**

Councillors J Bailey, D Burn, J Chaplow, A Cox, R Crute, PGittins, S Iveson, A Savory, A Shield, W Stelling, P Stradling, T Taylor and O Temple

**Co-opted Members**

Councillor Mrs H Gibbon and Mr D Haw

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Armstrong, R Bell, K Davidson and M Potts and Mr C McCaughey

**A1 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

With reference to Minute A4 Proposed Work Programme, Jeremy Brock, Health Scrutiny Liaison Manager informed the Committee that action seeking an indication of Members preferences on the work programme is outstanding but to be actioned shortly. Members were also advised that places are available on the Health Improvement Leadership Programme and if they are interested in attending any of the meetings, they should contact the Scrutiny office.

**A2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**A3 Items from Co-opted Members**

There were no items from Co-opted Members.

**A4 Overview and Scrutiny Review Summaries**

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive providing a summary of previous Overview and Scrutiny Reviews and activities undertaken by the former District Councils in 2008/09 (for copy see file of Minutes).

With reference to Appendix 1 Councillor Temple asked whether the resourcing and commissioning of a comprehensive study on young peoples lifestyles had been undertaken. Jeremy Brock advised that as part of the review work, each

service lead will be asked to come back to a future meeting of the Committee to explain how the recommendations have been addressed.

**Resolved:**

1. That the summary scrutiny reports and former District Council scrutiny activities be noted.
2. That a progress report on the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Reviews be considered at a future meeting within the Committee's Work Programme.

**A5 Light Touch Review of Mental Health Day Services**

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive about the Light Touch Review of proposed changes to Mental Health Day Services (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the Light Touch Review Report and findings be endorsed as the Committee's response to the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Directorate's consultation exercise of proposed changes to Mental Health Day Services.

**A6 Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for North East England response to the North East Ambulance Service Proposal for Foundation Trust Status**

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive about the joint north east regional response of health scrutiny members to the North East Ambulance Service proposals to apply for Foundation Trust status (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**A7 Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust – Integrated Business Plan**

The Committee considered a report of Brian Key, Acting North East Director of Commissioning Mental Health and Learning Disabilities which provided an update on progress with the model of care for mental health services in County Durham where formal consultation has already taken place, indicating areas of service development where NHS County Durham have identified that consultation is required and future areas of development (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Temple asked what the Shotley Bridge Hospital facilities will be used for in the future and what the advantages will be for the local community following the changes. It was explained that there are five mental health services being provided on the site which includes the Allensford ward, the Lindisfarne ward, two Community Teams and the day hospital for older people.

The closure of the Allensford ward has been planned for some time. The Community Teams have also been enhanced with an increase in staff and they have moved to seven day working. In future the site will have the Community Team for Older People, Community Services for Adults and the day hospital for older people's services. Councillor Temple stressed the need for local people need to be made aware of the changes to services.

Councillor Burnip asked for an update on the provision of services from the Cherry Knowle site. This facility is provided by the Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust (NTW) and it was explained that the options they are proposing for the re-provision of services from Cherry Knowle include some services being provided on the site, some services being provided there and elsewhere and no services at all being provided on the site. NHS County Durham recognise that for reasons of safety and quality of provision that services can be better provided in a single pathway of care and are proposing to transfer adults and older peoples inpatient services to Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust's facilities in Durham. Preferences will be made clear in the consultation document, which needs to be linked to the consultation on NTW services led by Sunderland PCT.

Councillor Chaplow asked whether patients are being admitted to the County Hospital. It was confirmed that the County Hospital still has in-patients although they will transfer to the Lanchester Road facility as it opens. Councillor Chaplow also sought clarification about County Durham patients being admitted to Cherry Knowle. Councillor Chaplow was advised that patients are not being admitted to Cherry Knowle and any patient requiring a high level of care is now admitted to West Park.

Councillor Shield expressed concern about the isolation of rural areas and asked what provision is being made to provide an integrated transport system to allow patients and carers to access services. It was explained that this issue has not yet been resolved. The access to the Lanchester Road site has been widened to allow buses to access the site. As an interim solution, the Trust are utilising internal transport and taxis to enable people to get to Lanchester Road. David Gallagher explained that a Transport for Health Group involving the County Council's Integrated Transport Unit and colleagues from Darlington Borough Council has begun to meet. Following the 'Seizing the Future' consultation exercise, the Group is working to bring together partners and resources to provide an integrated transport solution. This solution will not only use buses but will also involve the vehicles of other organisations.

David Haw asked if patients, carers and visitors will have to use public transport to access the Lanchester Road site or will the hospital transport service will be used. It was explained that patients and visitors will be able to use public transport to reach the site from Durham City. If patients are not able to get to the Lanchester Road site, hospital transport will be provided, particularly for older people.

Peter Irvine of the County Durham and Darlington Mental Health Forum informed the Committee that the Forum feels strongly that there is a need to ensure that there is proper consultation when there are significant changes to services. The Forum is particularly concerned that there has not been any consultation on the relocation of the Lindisfarne ward. It was pointed out that

part of Tees Esk and Wear Valley Trust's argument for the change to the service model was the provision of high quality community services. Feedback from Forum members indicates that there are problems with services and that service users have significant issues with the services they receive. The Forum is also concerned that as part of the proposal for the redevelopment of Lanchester Road was to address public transport issues. As far as they are aware nothing has yet been put in place.

Jeremy Brock informed the Committee that no details have yet been received on the consultation proposals for older people and it has been suggested that the period of consultation might need to be extended as it covers the Christmas period. In addition the Committee has not received any detail on the re-provision of services in the new service model including transport provision. It is suggested that an additional meeting of the Committee be held in September to consider service changes, issues raised by services users on the quality of services and transport. The meeting could also examine the future areas requiring development. Brian Key advised that they will bring a report to the Committee explaining how their consultation will fit in with the North Easington consultation which is being carried out by Sunderland PCT.

Councillor Temple said it should be made clear that the Committee does not endorse the decommissioning of a ward until there had been further clarification on the issues arising, and that the September meeting will establish the Committee's views on the proposals.

Councillor Crute also said that in relation to Sections 3 and 4 of the report it should be stated that the Committee is agreeing to the methodology and timescale and not the proposals outlined in the report subject to further discussions.

**Resolved:**

That a special meeting of the Committee be arranged in September to consider service changes, issues raised by services users on the quality of services, transport issues and future areas requiring development.